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from white men that it is excellent eating, after the removal of its electric hide.

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LONG ISLAND FISHES NOTED BY MR. J. G. RAYNOR

Elops saurus. The Big-eyed Herring or Ten-Pounder, is of particular interest to students of evolution and of the past life of the earth, because it is what is often called "a living fossil," that is, a type which has come down from remote ages with very little change in structure. This fish is in fact a little modified representative of a group which flourished far back in the Cretaceous Period of the earth's history. It is also one of the most primitive of all the teeming hosts of Teleost fishes. Its nearest relatives among existing fishes are the Tarpon (*Megalops*) and the Ladyfish (*Albula*).

The American Museum of Natural History has recently received from Mr. John G. Raynor a specimen of this fish taken at Westhampton Beach, Long Island, about October 20, 1914. Others were taken at about the same time. The occurrence of this southern form on Long Island is sufficiently infrequent to be worthy of record; it is said to be common at Woods Hole, Mass., in October.*

Tetrapterus imperator. Mr. Raynor reports a Spearfish taken at Westhampton in the last of June or first part of July, 1890. He verified its identification by examining a figure of the species as well as a mounted Sailfish and a Swordfish model at the museum; and later submitted a very fair photograph of the fish, taken at the time of capture. To judge from the photograph it was eleven or twelve feet in total length. This fish apparently belongs with the Spearfish incursion reported from Woods Hole 1885

* Bull. U. S. Bur. Fish. Vol. 31, pt. 2.

to 1890.* It is the only definite Long Island record for the species that we know of.

Lophius piscatorius. From Mr. Raynor we have "Carpet-bag" and "Glutton" as local names for the Angler. Many Long Island fishermen loosely call it "Toadfish," although probably realizing that it is different from the smaller *Opsanus tau*, for which the name is also used and to which it properly belongs. At Easthampton, according to Mr. J. L. Helmuth, some of the fishermen call *Lophius*, "Angler," and he has heard it called "Dogfish" by one resident. In 1912 it was sometimes called "Muttonleg" by the crew of an off-shore beam-trawler who were bringing it head-less to the New York market. These notes may be of interest to anyone compiling a vernacular synonymy of the species.

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GARTER SNAKE SWALLOWED BY PIGMY "RATTLER"

It is not generally known that the Pigmy or Florida Ground Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus miliarius*) is on some occasions inclined toward cannibalism. A fine specimen eighteen inches long, lately disclosed this inclination and clearly demonstrated that the snake can swallow another considerably longer than itself.

On September 19, 1915, a captive Garter Snake (*Eutaenia sirtalis*) twenty-one inches long, which had been in my collection but a short while, gave birth to a litter of fifteen young. Not having a spare cage in which to put the mother and her offspring, I decided to place them in a cage with two Pigmy Rattlesnakes. On the following morning my attention was drawn to what more resembled a distorted sausage than it did a snake. It happened that one of the Pigmies had killed and swallowed the Garter Snake. The

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